

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A burner with a plurality of fingers comprising:

a burner head having fingers corresponding in number to said plurality ~~plurality~~ of fingers and having a peripheral wall with a second plurality of ports positioned along both sides of the peripheral wall of each one of said plurality of fingers;

said second plurality of ports formed continuously and substantially evenly spaced around each of said fingers and each of said ports formed as a slot in an upper portion of said peripheral wall;

a cap having a plurality of overlapping fingers corresponding in number to said plurality of fingers and having a lip extending laterally beyond the peripheral wall; and

a plurality of flame vents connecting adjacent ports along said peripheral wall.

2. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein each vent includes a recess, formed in said cap, positioned intermediate adjacent ports.

3. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 2 wherein said recess includes an expanded transfer area at an intermediate point between said adjacent ports.

4. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 2 wherein said recess is formed in said cap and bounded by a protruding lip.

5. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein said lip comprises a continuous wall along each said finger.

6. (currently amended): The invention as defined in claim 5 wherein said lip is scalloped laterally around said wall on ~~the~~ an interior side thereof.

7. (currently amended): A burner for a cooktop comprising:

a base for mounting said burner in a cooktop;

at least one upper member defining at least in part a plurality of ports on each side of a plurality of fingers;

said plurality of ports formed continuously and substantially evenly spaced around each of said fingers and each of said ports formed as a slot in an upper portion of said upper member;

a collar carried by said base and said collar including a plurality of splines around the periphery thereof;

a stem carried by said at least one upper member and said stem including a plurality of splines around the periphery thereof; and

an indexer carried by said collar and said stem limiting insertion of said stem to at least one predetermined alignment, said indexer aligning said at least one upper member in a said at least one predetermined alignment with said base, said indexer including said plurality of splines on said collar and said stem interlocking with one another in said at least one predetermined alignment.

8-9 (canceled)

10. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 7 wherein said base includes an ignitor element and wherein said predetermined alignment positions said ignitor element adjacent one of said ports.

11. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 7 wherein said at least one member includes a burner head having said plurality of fingers with a peripheral wall enclosing a gas path and including said plurality of port openings.

12. (currently amended): A cooktop burner comprising:

a body having a plurality of fingers extending outwardly from a central body portion, said body comprising:

a burner head having a central wall, and a peripheral wall on the central wall including a plurality of openings forming ports;

said plurality of openings forming ports formed continuously and substantially evenly spaced around each of said fingers and each of said ports formed as a slot only in an upper portion of said peripheral wall;

a base including a head support for said head, and a support for an ignitor, said head support including a first indexer including a plurality of splines for limiting

insertion of said head to at least one predetermined alignment with respect to said ignitor support; and

a burner cap including a covering wall positioned over said peripheral wall, a support for carrying said cap on said head, said support including a second indexer including a plurality of splines interlocking with said first indexer plurality of splines limiting insertion of said cap to a predetermined alignment with respect to said head.

13-14 (canceled)